

**Bill title:** Ocean Research and Exploration Enhancement Act of 2009

**Bill number:** [H.R. 366](#)

**Date introduced:** January 9, 2009

**Status:** Enacted. The bill was incorporated into the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 ( [H.R. 146](#) ), which was signed into law on March 30, 2009.

**Summary:** One of the bills incorporated into the Omnibus Public Land Management Act created two important ocean research programs: the National Undersea Research Program and the National Ocean Exploration Program.

The two research programs will provide insight into marine ecosystems, organisms and the geology of the world's oceans. The legislation was written to maximize ocean research effectiveness by integrating multiple scientific disciplines in the ocean science community. The two programs will be administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in conjunction with the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

The goal of the partnerships will be to share NOAA's facilities, technology, equipment, information and expertise with undersea research programs at universities. These programs will provide NOAA with the underwater presence it requires to fulfill its responsibility for managing living marine and coastal resources.